

No. 4.

# ALBERTA'S HEALTH

## Programme in Brief

State Medicine giving equal care to all citizens regardless of rank or means is the basis upon which Provincial Health Reform has been founded since 1938.

### The Government Bears All Expenses In:

1. Treatment of Tuberculosis.
2. After-care and Training of Infantile Paralysis Victims.
3. Operating District Nursing Services.
4. Maintaining Travelling Clinics.

("It is unique in all the Dominion: the only health unit of its kind in the country.")—The Calgary Herald.)

## **Treatment of Tuberculosis**

Since 1935 the available Sanatoria beds have been increased from 218 to 399, an increase of 187 beds. The Provincial Tuberculosis Clinics have also been increased materially.

## **Care and Training of Infantile Paralysis Victims**

Those cases which developed paralysis received special medical treatment which reduces their disability to a minimum. The patients also received special training which enables them to become self-supporting.

## **District Nursing Services**

These services are maintained in rural areas where people are remote from hospital and medical services. District Nursing Services are being extended from 13 to 29 in 1939.

During the past year 843 expectant mothers were given consultations. District Nurses gave 2,580 inoculations and 956 vaccinations and brought relief from suffering to more than 3,500 persons.

## **Maintaining Travelling Clinics**

### **Said a Grateful Father—**

(Interviewed on the Travelling Clinic by  
The Calgary Herald, June 18, 1939.)

"I sure was glad to take advantage of this opportunity," her father admitted. "The kid has been having sore throats more and more often lately and she seems to have lost weight and to be slipping behind at school. But I just couldn't afford to take her to Calgary. The expense of the trip on top of the operation . . . well, I just couldn't do it. I sort of hoped that if we got a good price for our crop this year, something might be done. She got her chance before I had even hoped."

## **Maternal Welfare**

Under The Hospitals Act of 1936, maternity cases were defined as "sudden and urgent", and thereby assured of more adequate medical services.

Under The Maternal Welfare Act of 1939, provision has been made whereby a special grant is paid to expectant mothers who are in poor financial circumstances. This grant is designed to provide additional necessities for the mother and babies.

## **Health Units**

These units are established at Red Deer, High River, and Lacombe, and plans for others are under way. These units provide modern preventive health facilities to distant rural communities. The Government bears half the cost.

## **War On Cancer**

Indigent sufferers from early cancer are admitted by special statutory provision passed in 1928 to Hospitals as a matter of urgent necessity for diagnosis and treatment at municipal expense.

A special ACT passed at the 1928 session of the Legislature provides for a Commission for the Investigation of Cancer Remedies. The Investigation Commission was appointed by Order in Council, June 17, 1928.

## **Mental Hygiene**

Prior to 1928, five regular mental hygiene (mental treatment) clinics operated with occasional clinics in the Peace River Country. Since then, four more have been opened. The nine are in Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Drumheller, High River, Ponoka, Coleman, Red Deer and the Northern Plains.

## **Mental Hospitals**

Since 1928 three new buildings for the care of mental patients have been opened. Provision has been made for 435 more patients. 1,485 beds are at the present time being maintained.

**Said Hon. Dr. W. W. Cross:**

Minister of Health (During Throne Debate, February 26, 1939.)

"The Policy of this Government is to take over one specific disease after another, as fast as finances will permit, until we eventually reach the goal of complete State Medicine."

Write for Details of Health Education to  
**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH**  
**Edmonton.**

Issued by the Government of Alberta.